REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-14 have been amended.

Claims 1-14 are pending and under consideration.

ITEM 2: OBJECTION TO THE TITLE:

In the Office Action, at page 2, the title was objected to as not being descriptive. It is submitted that amended title set forth above is descriptive and, accordingly, it is requested that the outstanding objection to the title be withdrawn.

ITEM 3: OBJECTION TO DRAWINGS

In accordance with the foregoing, corrected formal drawings of FIG. 19 and 20, each bearing the label - - Prior Art - -, are submitted herewith. Withdrawal of the drawing objections accordingly is respectfully requested.

ITEM 4: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-14 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

In the Office Action at page 2, claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness.

In response, the claims have been amended to improve clarity and antecedent support therein and to resolve numerous other objections to the claim terminology therein, raised in the Office Action.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now are in full compliance with the requirements of §112, paragraph 2 and thus it is requested that the objections to the claims be withdrawn.

ITESM 12-16 REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

In the Office Action, at pages 4-5, claims 1, 8, 11, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 for anticipation by U.S. Patent No. 6,052,718 to Gifford ("Gifford").

The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

In accordance with the foregoing clarifying claim amendments, "position information" as recited in original claim 1, for example, relates to a geographical position of one of the clients - - and also expressed as an "area identification representing a geographical position... of one of

the clients." On the other hand, the recited "position information" of a selected child server relates to logical position information - - for example, an IP address.

The only "address" information referred to in Gifford is an "IP address" - - an acronym for an "Internet Protocol (IP) address". An IP address is written as a set of four numbers separated by periods and is altogether unrelated to a geographical position. (See attached print out of Google search results for: "Definitions of **IP Address** on the Web", pages 1-4).

Accordingly, it is submitted to be clear that Gifford is altogether unrelated to the claimed features of the present invention and fails to support rejections for anticipation or obviousness of the pending claims.

In like fashion, independent claims 5, 9, 10, and 12 have the same "geographical" feature, such as in the phrase: "the one of the clients situated in an area for which the one of the child servers is responsible...." (See claim 5, in the subparagraph characterizing the "parent ·server..." and the specification disclosure e.g., page 26, lines 7-17 relating to "child servers associated with General Information Centers that cover respectively the Tokyo area and the Kanagawa area...."; see also, page 18, lines 15-21 and numerous other locations presenting similar such teachings.)

ITESM 17-28: REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

In the Office Action, at pages 6-7, claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 for obviousness in view of Gifford and U.S. Patent No. 6,167,438 to Yates et al. ("Yates").

The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Addressing first Item 20, there is no legal precedent or standard supporting the Examiner's, proclamation of "that which was anticipated also was obviousness..." in Item 20 of the Action. This is all the more true since it has been shown above that Gifford is altogether silent regarding any functions or capabilities relating to geographical positions or addresses.

Yates, moreover, is not being cited as providing any such teaching and thus the combination of the two references, even if the same were proper, clearly lacks any teaching or suggestion of these substantive limitations of the pending claims.

It, moreover, is submitted that the Examiner's contentions as to the obviousness of the combination relied upon (see e.g., Item 21, lines 6 et. seq.) are deficient for lack of any *prima facie* demonstration of the alleged obviousness and clearly do not meet the stringent

requirements for a demonstration of obviousness under MPEP 2143-2143.03.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot and, further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the art and rejections of record. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner's contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: <u>January 28, 2005</u>   By: _____

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

In the Office Action at item 3, the Examiner objected to the drawings. In order to overcome these objections, replacement FIGS. 19 and 20, labeled as "PRIOR ART," are submitted herewith.

Approval of these changes to the Drawings is respectfully requested.

Google™

| define:IP Address | Search | Advanced Search / Preferences |
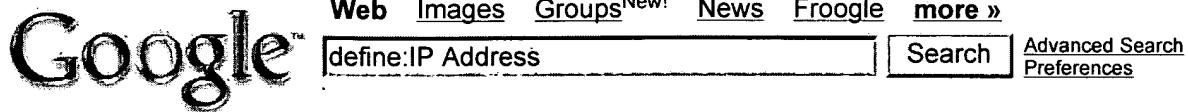
Web

Tip: Try Google Answers for help from expert researchers

Definitions of **IP Address** on the Web:

Every computer connected to the Internet is assigned a unique number known as an Internet Protocol (IP) address. Since these numbers are usually assigned in country-based blocks, an IP address can often be used to identify the country from which a computer is connecting to the Internet.
https://adwords.google.com/select/glossary.html·

The numeric address of a computer on the Internet. An IP address is written as a set of four numbers separated by periods (each number can range from 0 to 255). An example of an IP address is 123.123.4.5.
https://www.namesecure.com/en_US/index.jhtml

Every user on a TCP/IP system has to be assigned a unique identifier called an IP address. Because there are a limited number of acceptable addresses, most ISPs now assign an address from the pool they're permitted to use randomly to each user as the user calls in to connect to the system--dynamic IP addressing There was a time, though, when most ISPs permanently assigned one IP address to each of their users (fixed IP addressing), and you could identify that user by checking the headers of his newsgroup and email messages for that address. For instance, my IP address was once 168.121.39.219 and you could find that in any post I made during that period. Hillyard's was 168.121.127.70 while he was a MindSpring user.
www.technomom.com/harassed/defmain.shtml

Network addresses are usually of two types: (1) the physical or hardware address of a network interface card; for Ethernet this 48-bit address might be 0260.8C00.7666. The hardware address is used to forward packets within a physical network. (2) The logical or IP Address is used to facilitate moving data between physical networks and is made up of a network number, a subnetwork number, and a host number. All Internet addresses at SDSU have a network number of 130.191, a subnet number in the range of 1-254, and a host number in the range of 1-254. [San Diego State University]
www.ichnet.org/glossary.htm

Also referred to as Internet protocol address. A unique number that identifies a networked system so that it may communicate via Internet protocols. It consists of four numbers separated by periods. Most often, each part of the IP address is a number between 0 and 225; however, the first number must be less than 224 and the last number cannot be 0. IP addresses are logically divided into two parts: the network (similar to a telephone area code), and the system on the network (similar to a phone number).
www.sun.com/software/security/glossary.html

The numeric address of a computer connected to the Internet; also called Internet address.
www.lights.com/hytelnet/glossary.html

An IP address is an identifier for a computer or device on a TCP/IP network. Networks using the TCP/IP protocol to route messages based on the IP address of the destination. The format of an IP address is a 32 bit numeric address written as four numbers separated by periods. Each number can be zero to 255. For example, 1.160.10.240 could be an IP address. Within an isolated network, you can assign IP addresses at random as long as each one is unique. However, connecting a

private network to the Internet requires using registered IP addresses (called Internet addresses) to avoid duplicates.
www.course.com/careers/glossary/internet.cfm

Internet protocol (IP) address. A unique 32-bit number specified as four 8-bit numbers (represented as integers) called octets. The four octets are connected by periods. The numbers must be in the range 0-255. A sample IP address is 255.32.3.10. This address is often assigned by a government agency called the DDN Network Information Center (NIC).
webmaster.info.aol.com/glossary.html

Internet Protocol address. When you log on to SBC Yahoo! Internet, you're assigned a numeric IP address. Although some IP addresses stay the same every time you log on (a static IP address), at SBC Yahoo! Internet we dynamically assign them based on what addresses are available (a dynamic IP address).
support.sbcglobal.net/general/662.shtml

Internet Protocol address--a set of numbers, separated by dots, that specifies the actual location of a machine on the Internet.
docsrv.caldera.com/INT_Proxy/glossary.htm

Every computer connected to the Internet must have a unique address known as an IP (Internet Protocol) address. The IP address is a numeric address written as a set of four numbers separated by dots, for example 130.102.42.17. The address provides a unique identification of a computer and the network it belongs to. See also Domain name.
askit.uq.edu.au/glossary/glossaryh-n.html

A series of four numbers, each from the range of 0 to 255, separated by periods, which uniquely identify a node (usually a computer) on the Internet. Although the underlying IP relies on these numeric addresses, people usually use host names, which are easier to remember and are automatically converted to IP addresses by the Domain Name System (DNS).
www.conxion.com/technology/glossary.asp

In the case of TCP/IP networks, each node has a software or IP address that is configurable by the managers of the nodes. The software address is usually specified as four decimal numbers separated by periods (for example, 197.49.155.247). In this case, each number must be between zero and 255, and each corresponds to a different network or sub-network. Depending on how many other nodes and networks a node can "see" on its network, addresses are either assigned to nodes (in the case of large, cross-country networks) or chosen randomly (for small networks that do not connect to the outside world). Each software address should be unique across all the networks it can access. See network address.
www.lantronix.com/support/docs/html/eps_ref/gloss.htm

An address made up of a series of four numbers separated by periods (e.g., 149.174.211.5) assigned to every computer connected to the Internet.
www.ezboard.com/help/glossary.html

The standard way of identifying a computer that is connected to the internet, much the way a telephone number identifies a telephone on a telephone network. The IP address is four numbers separated by periods, and each number is less than 256, for example, 192.200.44.69. Your system administrator or internet service provider will assign your machine an IP address.
www.atlantawebhost.com/glossary-hl.php

An IP address is used to identify a location within a network of computers that are using the TCP/IP protocol to communicate. It contains two pieces of information: - the network portion, known as the IP network address, and the local portion, known as the local address. Each IP address identifies a specific location within the Internet, specifically to a network interface on a given network or sub network.
www.murdoch.edu.au/cwisad/glossary.html

The address that serves as a unique identifier of computers on the Internet. IP addresses have the
following format: 210.170.2.45 - The DNS converts IP addresses to the more familiar domain
names.
www.eudora.com/techsupport/kb/2148hq.html

Internet Protocol Address. A unique number that is used to represent every single computer in a
network. All the computers in cyberspace have a unique IP address. The format of the IP Address is
four sets of numbers separated by dots (eg., 198.123.124.7).
usa.visa.com/business/merchants/online_trans_glossary.html

The Internet Protocol address is a unique number that is used to represent every single computer in
a Network. All the computers on the Internet have a unique IP address. The format of the IP
Address is 4 numbers separated by dots e.g. 198.123.124.7.
www.cvc2.org/survival_guide/web/web20a.htm

Internet Protocol address. The address of a computer on a TCP/IP (Transmission Control
Protocol/Internet Protocol) network. IP addresses are written as four groups of up to three digits
(e.g., 169.237.104.18).
iet.ucdavis.edu/glossary/

Each machine communicating on Internet must have its own unique numerical address. IP
addresses consist of four numbers separated by periods (also called a "dotted-quad") and look
something like 127.0.0.1. Because the numbers may be tedious to deal with, an IP address may
also be assigned to a Host name, which is sometimes easier to remember. Hostnames may be
looked up to find IP addresses, and visa-versa. Lifespan of Messages: Currently not available,
please use Main Index & Archive -> Maximum Threads in Forum. Lifespan of messages in your
forum. Messages exceeding this time are automatically deleted. -->
www.voy.com/help/glossary.html

An Internet address that is a unique number consisting of four parts separated by dots, sometimes
called a dotted quad. For example, 198.204.112.1. Every Internet computer has an IP address and
most computers also are assigned one or more Domain Names that are easier to remember than
the dotted quad.
www.qwest.net/nav4/help/faqs/glossary.html

Internet Protocol address. Every system connected to the Internet has a unique IP address, which
consists of a number in the format A.B.C.D where each of the four sections is a decimal number
from 0 to 255. Most people use Domain Names instead and the resolution between Domain Names
and IP addresses is handled by the network and the Domain Name Servers. With virtual hosting, a
single machine can act like multiple machines (with multiple domain names and IP addresses).
www.intermark.org/im-glossary.html

Internet Protocol is the standard that allows dissimilar machines to connect to each other through
the Internet. An IP address is a unique identifier assigned to a computer connected to the internet,
and is usually expressed as four numbers seperated by dots. See: Internet Address
www.mxes.org/glossary/

A unique, numeric identifier used to specify hosts and networks. Internet Protocol (IP) numbers are
part of a global, standardized scheme for identifying machines that are connected to the Internet.
Technically speaking, IP numbers are 32 bit addresses that consist of four octets, and they are
expressed as four numbers between 0 and 255, separated by periods, for example: 198.41.0.52. IP
allocation for the Americas, the Caribbean, and sub-Saharan Africa is currently handled by the
American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN). IP allocation for Europe is currently handled by
RIPE (Reseaux IP Europeens). IP allocation for the Asia/Pacific region is currently handled by the
Asia-Pacific Network Information Center (APNIC).
www.gtldregistries.org/glossary/glossary2.html

define:IP Address	Search

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